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PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Fraudulent Scheme

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The Nevada Gaming Control Board advises that telephone solicitors are posing as Nevada Gaming Control Board agents in a fraudulent scheme designed to steal thousands of dollars from unsuspecting victims. The Gaming Control Board has been working with Canadian Law Enforcement Authorities and Attorney General Offices in at least ten states, where the victims appeared to be located. Recently, however, the Gaming Control Board received a complaint from a Searchlight, Nevada resident.

The scheme essentially works as follows:

- A victim will receive one or more calls from an individual or individuals claiming to represent the Nevada Gaming Control Board or Gaming Commission
- Generally, the caller will tell the victim that they are a finalist in a drawing for a significant cash prize (usually in the millions of dollars) to take place "soon", and that they will be notified if they, in fact, win. The caller will also begin to explain what will be required for them to claim their prize including having to pay certain fees and taxes.
- A second call confirms the victim has won the drawing. The caller will then usually bring a "supervisor" on line to tell the victim that in order to collect the prize, the winner must first provide an amount to be placed in escrow for federal withholding. This amount is generally from 1% to 31% of the prize amount.
- The winner is instructed to wire the fees via Western Union to an address in Canada. In addition to the escrow for federal withholding, states taxes and insurance deposits have also been asked for.

- The victim is often given an "800" telephone number to call if they have questions. If the victim calls, they will usually get a recording, which starts out by saying, and "you have reached the offices of the Nevada Gaming Commission."
- Recently, the suspects have also identified themselves as "U.S. Customs" officials advising the victim that an "insurance deposit" is also required. Another "800" number is supplied that answers with a greeting, "Thank you for calling the United States Customs holding facility in Buffalo, New York...."

In at least one instance involving a hesitant victim in Texas, the callers identified themselves by using the names of both the Chairman of the Nevada Gaming Control Board and Nevada Gaming Commission.

The Gaming Control Board and the Gaming Commission do not endorse products or promotions of any kind. The Board urges anyone who is contacted in this manner to immediately notify Enforcement Division Agent Paul Jeffrey at (702) 486-2020.